

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 15—Otay Mountains Wilderness Act
**H.R. 154—Authorizing the Collection of Movie and Television Production
Fees at National Parks and Wildlife Refuges**
H.R. 449—Gateway Visitor Center Authorization Act
S. 388—Disaster Mitigation Coordination Act
**H.R. 440—Microloan Program Technical Corrections Act (Agreeing to
Senate Amendments)**
**H.R. 98—War Risk Insurance Reauthorization Act (Agreeing to Senate
Amendments)**
**H.Con.Res. 48—Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the Opening
Ceremonies of Sunrayce 99**
**H.Con.Res. 49—Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the “Get
Out Spoke’n” Bicycle Summit**
Motion to Go to Conference on H.Con.Res. 68 (FY 2000 Budget Resolution)



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following eight bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 15—Otay Wilderness Act designates 18,500 acres of the Otay Mountain region as a wilderness area. The Otay Mountains are located in western San Diego County, California. The Otay Mountain region is the only known home to certain sensitive species such as the Mexican flannel bush and the Tecate

Cypress. In the 1980s, the Bureau of Land Management suggested that the region receive a “wilderness” label because of its natural resources and serenity. Since then, the campaign to make the Otay region a “wilderness” area has gained public support in the San Diego area due to the region’s opportunities for recreation and solitude. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 15 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Bilbray and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on March 3, 1999.

H.R. 154 authorizes the Interior Secretary to establish fees for certain commercial purposes (i.e., motion pictures, television productions, soundtracks, or other activities) conducted on public lands, and authorizes agencies within the Interior Department to retain and spend without further appropriation any resulting receipts. The secretary must develop regulations to establish a schedule of rates, which will be based on factors such as the number of persons at the site and the duration of filming. The bill authorizes the secretary to reduce fees if the activity provides clear educational benefits for the department and exempts newsreels, television news productions, and some commercial photography from these fees. Finally, the bill grants the secretary the power to determine when it is appropriate to allow these activities and determine whether they will effect normal visitor flow. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 154 may affect the federal budget by changing collections of offsetting receipts and the use of such receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures apply; however, any increases or decreases in offsetting receipts will probably amount to no more than a few million dollars per year. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hefley and was reported by the Resources Committee on March 3, 1999.

H.R. 449—Gateway Visitor Center Authorization Act authorizes the Interior Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Gateway Visitor Center Corporation, a nonprofit organization, to build and operate a visitor center on Independence Mall at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The visitor center will provide historical information and interpretation, facilities and services to visitors to the national park. The corporation will oversee the design and construction of the facility, and raise and control necessary funds to complete the construction (approximately \$25 million). CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 449 will cost less than \$1 million a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The bill was introduced by Messrs. Borski, Weldon (PA), and Brady and was reported by the Resources Committee on March 3, 1999.

S. 388—Disaster Mitigation Pilot Program authorizes the administrator of the Small Business Association (SBA), in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to establish a pilot loan program for small businesses and homeowners—\$15 million each year for FYs 2000-2004—for building improvement, relocation, and other measures to lessen the impact of natural disasters. In addition, the bill requires the SBA administrator to report to Congress by January 31, 2003, on the number of loans made, the areas served, and the estimated savings to the government as a result of the program. The loans will be drawn from existing disaster loan funds and do not constitute new spending. The Senate passed the measure by unanimous consent on March 25, 1999. The measure is identical to H.R. 818, which passed the House by voice vote on March 2, 1999.

H.R. 440—Microloan Technical Corrections Act, as amended by the Senate, amends the Small Business Act to require (1) the Small Business Administration (SBA) to maintain at least \$800,000 of new loan funds for each state’s microloan intermediaries in any fiscal year, and (2) all intermediaries to have a 15 percent loan loss reserve after their first five years of participation in the microloan program, after which time they may request a review by the SBA. If the intermediaries’ five-year loss rate is lower than 15 percent, then the SBA may reduce the loss reserve requirement to as low as 10 percent. The House

passed H.R. 440 by a vote of 441-4 on February 9, 1999. The Senate made clarifying amendments to the bill and passed it by unanimous consent on March 25. H.R. 440 was introduced by Mr. Talent.

H.R. 98—War Risk Insurance Reauthorization Act, as amended by the Senate, reauthorizes the Aviation Insurance Program for an additional five years through December 31, 2003. The Senate eliminated provisions in the House-passed bill that included several modifications to the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (*P.L. 105-389*) enacted last year. The House originally passed the bill by a vote of 407-1 on February 3, 1999. The Senate passed the measure, as amended, by unanimous consent on March 25, 1999. The bill was introduced by Messrs. Shuster, Duncan, Oberstar and Lipinski and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote on January 7, 1999.

H.Con.Res. 48 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Sunrayce 1999 solar-powered car event scheduled for June 20, 1999. The resolution also authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police Board, and the sponsors of the event to negotiate the necessary arrangements to carry out the event in compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol Grounds. The sponsor assumes responsibility for all expenses and liabilities related to the event. Sunrayce 99 showcases the talents of graduate and undergraduate teams from North America who have developed highly efficient solar-powered vehicles. From June 20 to 29, up to 40 teams will race through five states—starting in Washington, D.C. and finishing at Epcot Center near Orlando, Florida. The top three finishing teams will receive trophies and cash awards. Scholarship achievement awards also will be granted for technical innovation, engineering excellence, artistic talents, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. H.Con.Res. 48 was introduced by Mr. Salmon and was reported by the Transportation Committee (*H.Rept. 106-60*) by voice vote on March 11, 1999.

H.Con.Res. 49 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the “Get Out Spoke’n” bicycle summit scheduled for May 5, 1999. The resolution also authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police Board, and the sponsors of the event to negotiate the necessary arrangements to carry out the event in compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol Grounds. The sponsor assumes responsibility for all expenses and liabilities related to the event. The event teaches children the proper ways to ride bicycles and honors children who have been actively involved in the national campaign to make America more bike-friendly. H.Con.Res. 49 was introduced by Mr. Blumenauer *et al.* and was reported by the Transportation Committee (*H.Rept. 106-61*) by voice vote on March 11, 1999.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #9, April 9, 1999.



Motion to Go to Conference on H.Con.Res. 68 (FY 2000 Budget Resolution)

Floor Situation: Mr. Kasich or a designee is expected to offer a motion to go to conference on H.Con.Res. 68 after the House completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. A motion to instruct may be made immediately after this request and before the chair appoints conferees. Instructions are considered the prerogative of the minority and are debatable for one hour.

Summary: The motion, if agreed to, will establish a House-Senate conference to resolve differences between the House version of the FY 2000 Budget Resolution—which passed the House by a vote of

221-208 on March 25, 1999—and the Senate version (S.Con.Res. 20), which passed the Senate by a vote of 55-44 also on March 25. Once agreed to, the motion permits the chair to appoint conferees. Details of a possible motion to instruct were unavailable at press time.

Views: The Republican Leadership supports the motion to go to conference and opposes any motion to instruct conferees that would weaken the position of House negotiators.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #8, Pt. II, March 23, 1999.



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